

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)

Applicant(s): GARY BOCCADUTRE and PAUL V. MANNINO

Docket No.

1647001

Serial No.

09/841,570

Filing Date

04/24/2003

Examiner

SHAKERI, HADI

Group Art Unit

3723

Invention: IMPROVED POWER ASSISTED LEVER ARM RATCHET

I hereby certify that this AFFIDAVIT OF PAUL V. MANNINO*(Identify type of correspondence)*

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

11/22/2003*(Date)*Robert J. Ferb*(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)*
(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.



AFFIDAVIT

Re: Improved power assisted lever arm ratchet
Serial Number 90/841,570

I, Paul V. Mannino, proprietor of Paul's Garage, located at 1138R South Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey, 07090, am one of the inventors regarding the above-named invention. A summary of my training and experience is attached.

My co-inventor, Gary Boccaduttre, and I have a combined approximately 50 years of experience in the field of automotive repair and the use of manual and power assisted hand tools in repair shop maintenance and manufacturing settings and are familiar in detail with the various types of configurations of hand tools and power assisted tools available to mechanics, maintenance people, and the like.

As disclosed in the prior art, power assisted lever arm ratchets, almost from their inception, were configured to produce compact configurations with the ratchet drive closely coupled to the handle, which typically incorporates the drive motor. Both Mr. Boccaduttre and I have, on innumerable occasions over the years, as with virtually all other mechanics and maintenance people, had to contend with tightening or loosening fasteners such as nuts and bolts in difficult-to-access locations in various situations including automotive maintenance, machinery repair, equipment installation, and the like. No product was available that really facilitated working in these types of situations. Typically, what we and other individuals did to contend with these types of situations was to either remove other items that might have been away in accessing the hard-to-reach location or undertake a tedious tightening or loosening by essentially turning a

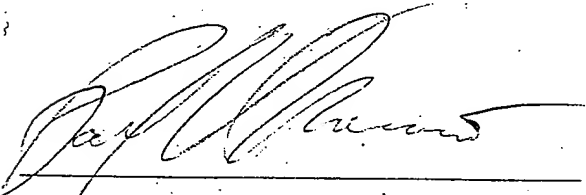
nut or bolt one or two flats at a time to the extent permitted by the inaccessibility of the location.

No product which performs in the manner of our improved power assisted lever arm ratchet was available from any manufacturer nor was any combination of extended sockets or ratchet extensions suitable to solve the problem. In addition to my own use of a prototype in my garage, in the course of the development of this invention a number of prototypes were provided to auto mechanics who did high volume repair work at automotive dealerships for them to evaluate and provide feedback. After only a few days of use all of these mechanics found the prototypes so useful that they were very reluctant to return them. Dealership mechanics typically are paid for repairs based on the time in the "flat rate" repair guides. These guides allow the dealership to quote a specific price for a repair to the customer based on the flat rate hours for the repair and the shop labor rate. The mechanic gets paid at his rate for the number of hours in the flat rate guide no matter how long the repair takes. This arrangement protects the dealer from having to charge the customer extra or absorb the extra labor charge if the repair takes longer than the estimate and allows the mechanic to develop efficient repair procedures and invest in labor saving tools so that he will benefit from doing repairs faster than the flat rate time. This tool produces substantial time savings on many repairs and results in significant extra income to a mechanic doing flat rate work.

I have participated in many sales of this product to these types of mechanics by providing the tool on approval to the mechanic. In virtually every case this resulted in a sale not only to the mechanic who was supplied with the tool but also to other mechanics in the facility who observed its use by their colleague.

This tool is fulfilling an unmet need and has been accepted quickly by professional mechanics because of its utility

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

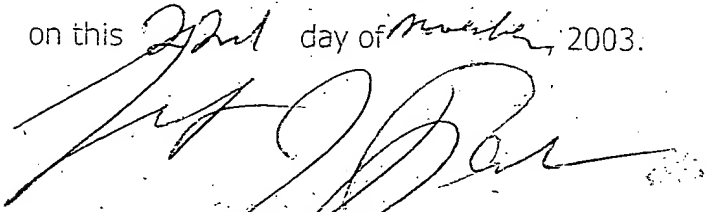


Paul V. Mannino

DATED:

11/22/03

Sworn and subscribed to before me
on this 22nd day of November, 2003.



ROBERT J. FERB
AN ATTORNEY AT LAW
OF NEW JERSEY

Paul V. Mannino
455 Grant Avenue
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076
908-322-7345

Work Experience

Inventor

US Patent Awarded for Bicycle Patent Mechanism 1992

G&B Products, Somerville, NJ 2001 - present
Research and Development of ideas for products to be patented and marketed.

Automotive Mechanic

Ferryman Diesel 1977-1979

Referred by Union County Vocational and Technical School Instructor. Performed as Traveling Service Technician. Went to various locations to repair diesel engines used on sailboats, generator sets and field equipment.

Jax Auto Parts, Westfield, NJ 1980-1983

Shop Manager for Auto Repair Department. Oversaw day-to-day operations including diagnosis and repair of customer vehicles.

Martinsville Exxon, Martinsville, NJ 1983-1987

Head Mechanic specializing in front end alignment.

American Automotive, Fanwood, NJ 1987-1993

Owner/Operator of two bay general automotive repair shop

Fanwood Shell, Fanwood, NJ 1983-1998

Head Mechanic with large customer following from American Automotive.

Paul's Garage, Westfield, NJ 1998-present

Owner/Operator of three bay general automotive repair shop.

Achievements

ASE Certified

ERF Certified in New Jersey

Education

Westfield High School, Westfield, NJ 1975

Union County Vocational and Technical School 1977

Graduated with honors